

Shame on Venezuela, shame on Rafael Caldera. This will go down in history as something that will mark his history forever. The Cuban people, when the Venezuelans suffered a dictatorship, were hosts to Caldera and to other democratic leaders of Venezuela, in solidarity and in friendship, during the dictatorship of Perez Jimenez, and other dictatorships that the Venezuelans have to suffer.

Now, notice how the Cuban people are reciprocated by leaders, mediocre leaders, such as this man, Rafael Caldera. The Cuban people will not forget and the friends of the Cuban people in the United States and elsewhere will not forget this act of cowardice, this shameful act of cowardice. This is an act of mediocrity and an act of cowardice and shamefulness.

If there is any dignity left, Mr. Speaker, in the Venezuelan Government, they must forthwith apologize and readmit the Cuban exile leaders so that they may peacefully be able to express dissent against the horror, the oppression, the murder, the torture, the random arrests that the Cuban tyrant is continuing to engage in to this moment against the Cuban people.

While a nation of 11 million people die at the hands of a murderous madman, much of the world and especially this hemisphere, Mr. Speaker, is led by men who make the word "mediocrity" seem like statesmanship in comparison. Men who are more than mediocre, men who commit acts of shame such as the one committed by Caldera. Shame on Venezuela.

DO THE SCIENCE FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of nearly 200 Members of the House of Representatives, nearly 200 Members who have decided that they want to take some action in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the health of the people of this Nation and, while ensuring the health of the people of this great Nation, also ensuring the prosperity of this Nation's economy and of the industries that lead to that great economy and participate in that great economy.

What I am talking about is an action which was announced about a year ago about the EPA. Director Carol Browner said that she did not think that the air quality standards were strict enough, that there was some evidence resulting from a reexamination that was ordered by a court because the EPA lost in court to the American Lung Association. And so they had to take a look at something called particulate matter, which is measured right now at one standard and they now want to begin measuring it at a finer standard. They want to go from P.M.-10 microns to P.M.-2.5.

My friends who run the Committee on Commerce and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, under the leadership of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON], have done I think a tremendous job and are to be lauded in taking a look at this issue and conducting oversight to see what are the ramifications of changing these regulations.

First of all, we found out that there are only 50 monitors in this Nation that can measure P.M.-2.5. Then we find out, when Carol Browner speaks in front of the Committee on Agriculture on September 16 of this year, that these new rules that she wants to promulgate will not take effect, according to her, they are not going to enforce them, until 2009.

Now, the question comes up, why in the world do we want to promulgate new regulations that we are not going to enforce for over a decade? Why would we do that? Because we need to understand what industry has to do in planning to make capital investment. They have to plan today for what the rules will be in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 because they are making long-term investments, and we have not yet done the science. So nearly 200 Members of this House, 142 from the Republican side and 55 from the Democratic side, have joined together and said to the EPA, wait a minute. Let us do the science first.

We are willing, as Republicans and Democrats, to work together to give \$300 million to build the monitors that can be installed across this great Nation to determine how much of a problem P.M.-2.5 is, and is there a difference in the health impact of different kinds of particulate matter, or is there a difference when that fine particulate matter is mixed with other kinds of pollutants? We do not know the answer to either of those questions, Mr. Speaker.

So the Republicans and Democrats, working together, said we will spend the money, we will authorize the spending of that money so that this Nation's scientists and this Nation's industries and this Nation's health professionals will know what is the impact of P.M.-2.5.

We want to make sure that if Carol Browner is correct, we are headed in the right direction, and that we do it before 2009. So we asked for a 5-year moratorium. We asked that these rules not be promulgated and that we continue to work on the current clean air standards during the time the study is occurring. Both Ms. Browner, the administration, and those of us in Congress agree that the Clean Air Act is working. As we clean the air, we have seen a higher incidence of asthma. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? We do not know. Perhaps something in this study can help us.

So we have introduced a bill known as H.R. 1984, along with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON], my Republican colleague, and the gentleman

from Virginia [Mr. BOUCHER], my Democratic colleague; we have worked this bill. When many people wanted to attack the EPA for being shortsighted, for rushing to judgment, we said, let us do this correctly. Let us give this money to the EPA so that that agency can do the science.

Then the EPA comes before the Committee on Commerce and says well, we are very concerned. Fifteen thousand people a year are dying prematurely because this new standard has not been impacted, and 100,000 people have lung diseases each year because this is not the standard. Well, why wait until 2009? We think that our bill, H.R. 1984, with 200 sponsors or nearly 200 cosponsors, Mr. Speaker, should be moved immediately and I ask the Republican leadership to move that bill, to not embarrass 142 of their Republican colleagues who have signed on to the bill and the 55 Democrats who have done likewise.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 12 noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As You have created a formation of the world and the majesty of the heavens, O God, so Your spirit also touches us in the commonplace and ordinary events of the day. So may we see Your presence in great affirmations and momentous occurrences but also in those modest moments when the world does not notice, that we can see Your hand of grace touching individuals' lives and allowing us to sense Your love and comfort. May Your presence, O gracious God, that is new every morning and washes away the doubt of the day, be with all Your people now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows: